

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 215054
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 /059 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:GTBOUTIN/RN
APPROVED BY EUR:WHLUERS
EUR/EE:HGILMORE
EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
-----092568 240854Z /21
R 232351Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215054

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN-US ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETING

REF: SOFIA 1628

1. BILL LUERS TALKED TO WILLIAM MAY EARLIER THIS WEEK.
FROM THAT CONVERSATION AND ANOTHER DISCUSSION WITH HAS-
FURTHER WE HAVE DERIVED THE FOLLOWING REPORT ON THE
STATUS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING.

2. IF THE BULGARIANS AGREE TO RECEIVE HIM, CHARLES
SMITH WILL TRAVEL TO SOFIA AND PLOVDIV IN EARLY
SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO THE
ECONOMIC COUNCIL. SMITH IS VICE PRESIDENT OF
SPERRY-VICKERS, A SUBSIDIARY OF SPERRY RAND. HIS
COMPANY PRODUCES HYDRAULIC EQUIPMENT. SMITH WILL
BE DESIGNATED A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL.
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3. WILLIAM MAY WILL NOT TRAVEL TO BULGARIA UNTIL
THE BULGARIANS ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH HIM
A LARGE CONTRACT HIS FIRM HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING. HE
EXPECTS THAT THIS WILL BE AT LEAST LATE SEPTEMBER.

4. MAY AND HAS FURTHER MET WITH HIMMIRSKY LAST WEEK.

THEY SUGGESTED THAT THE COUNCIL MEET IN SOFIA MARCH 5-6, 1979. THEY WILL USE THE INTERVENING PERIOD TO SEEK A BETTER US MEMBERSHIP IN THE COUNCIL.

5. FYI: HASFURTHER PLEDGED TO DO HIS BEST TO SEE THAT THE MARCH DATES DO NOT FALL THROUGH, BUT HE IS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE COUNCIL. HE WOULD WELCOME THE EMBASSY'S ADVICE ON HOW THE COUNCIL CAN BE IMPROVED. THE BULGARIANS COULD HELP BY IDENTIFYING US FIRMS THAT ARE LOOKING FOR BUSINESS IN BULGARIA. END FYI.

6. HIMMIRSKY WAS GREATLY RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT SMITH WILL TRAVEL TO SOFIA, BUT THE BULGARIANS HAVE NOT GIVEN THEIR OFFICIAL BLESSING TO THE VISIT YET. HASFURTHER EXPECTS TO RECEIVE FINAL WORD LATER THIS WEEK. WE WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, MEETINGS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE215054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GTBOUTIN/RN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780346-0536
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780831/aaaaazjt.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c0af305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SOFIA 1628
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1642289
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BULGARIAN-US ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETING
TAGS: EEWT, BU
To: SOFIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c0af305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014